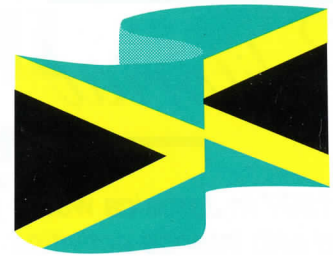


JAMAICA

NEWS



PUBLISHED BY THE JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE

December 1997

MERRY CHRISTMAS



This is the depiction of Sharlene Rhodd's entry in the Heritage Poster Competition which was used for the Prime Minister's Christmas card.

At His coming
He brought us the
gift of love.
His legacy we must
share
so that each and
every one's heart
will be filled with
love.

Best wishes for
Christmas and the
New Year.



Editorial

1997 in Jamaica was a year filled with intense activities and as it draws to a close we wish for everyone a joyous and peaceful season.

Among our most memorable and indeed sad events was the passing of former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Michael Manley.

On a more enjoyable note we re-instituted our Emancipation Anniversary after 35 years of Independence.

To top it off, Jamaica has now qualified for the 1998 World Cup Football. What a victory and celebration it was here and abroad. It goes to show 'we little but we tallawah'.

As this millennium draws to a close, let us as Jamaicans approach it with the spirit of unity, hope and a firm determination to succeed.

Let us remember what Christmas really is, a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. As we celebrate, remember to share with the less fortunate and to love someone. For those in colder climes keep warm and drink lots of hot egg-nog (a recipe is included in this issue).

Until next year
Feliz Navidad, Joy-
eaux Noel, Froliche
Weihnachten —Merry
Christmas Everyone.



LOGO COMPETITION WINNER



Consul-General Mr. John Atkins (r), welcomes CVSS/EFJ logo competition winner Dwayne Fuller to Miami. Looking on (l-r) are Information Officer Patricia Montague-McKenzie and Melrose Wiggan, chaperone.

Dwayne Fuller, 15 year old winner of the logo competition sponsored by the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul General, John Atkins at the offices of the Jamaican Consulate. Dwayne who was on his prize trip to Miami was accompanied by his chaperone, Ms. Melrose Wiggan.

The Consul General congratulated Dwayne and encouraged him to continue to strive for excellence in all his endeavours, learn as much as possible and filter it into his daily life.

Dwayne Fuller is a student of Wolmer's Boys School and won the Logo competition from a field of 300 contestants island-wide, with a multicoloured three dimensional Logo depicting land, sea, sun and birds.

Dwayne expressed an interest in becoming an Environmental Scientist.

MAY PEN HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENED

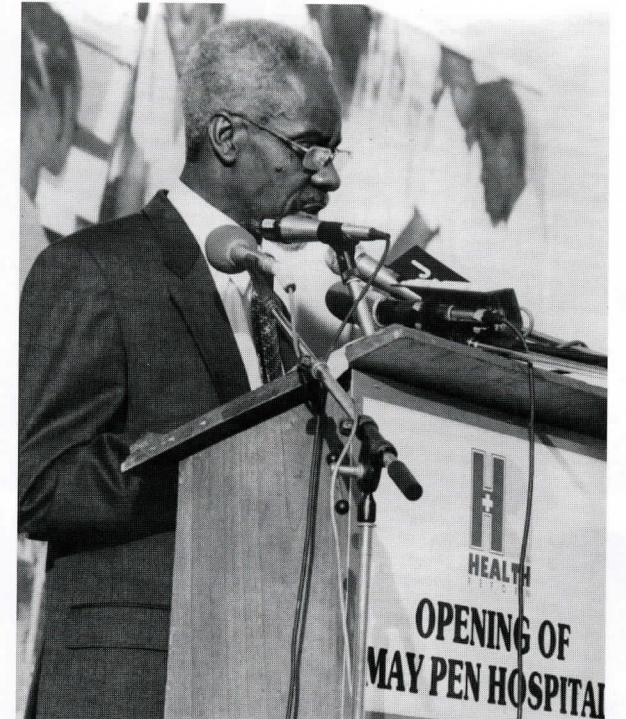
Prime Minister Rt. Hon. P.J. Patterson recently opened the May Pen Hospital in Denbigh, Clarendon.

The construction of the facility, which is the first new hospital complex to be opened in 25 years, was done under the government's Health Services Rationalization Project (HSRP) geared at effecting health reforms across the island.

Mr Patterson stated that besides the construction of the hospital in May Pen, the HSRP has also undertaken upgrading and infrastructural work at five other major hospitals, namely St Ann's Bay, Kingston Public, University, Mandeville and Cornwall Regional.

Funded jointly by the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the 150 bed-hospital was constructed at a cost of J\$985 million.

The complex includes four blocks, housing operating theatres, male and female medical and surgical wards, casualty wards, pediatrics and maternity wards, pharmacy, central sterile supplies department, laundry and kitchens.



Prime Minister Patterson at the official opening of the May Pen Hospital.

Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Peter Phillips pointed out that although the facility is currently a "Type C" hospital, plans are afoot to introduce additional specialist care over the next two years to raise its status to that of a "B" type facility

On the subject of hospital maintenance islandwide, the Minister of Health Hon. Dr Peter Phillips said, "a computerised, planned, preventive maintenance programme has already been implemented under the HSRP." He added that the programme, identifies tasks to be done prior to equipment or plant failure.



Prime Minister Patterson cuts the ribbon at the opening of the May Pen Hospital. Looking on are Hon. Dr Peter Phillips, Minister of Health and Hon. Mike Henry, Member of Parliament.



GOVERNMENT AWARDS HOUSING LOTS TO THE REGGAE BOYZ



National Football team of Jamaica: From left-back row: Jose Luis Camargo (Massuer), Ian Goodison, Theodore Whitmore, Linval Dixon, Warren Barrett, Fitzroy Simpson, Alfredo Montesso (Trainer).

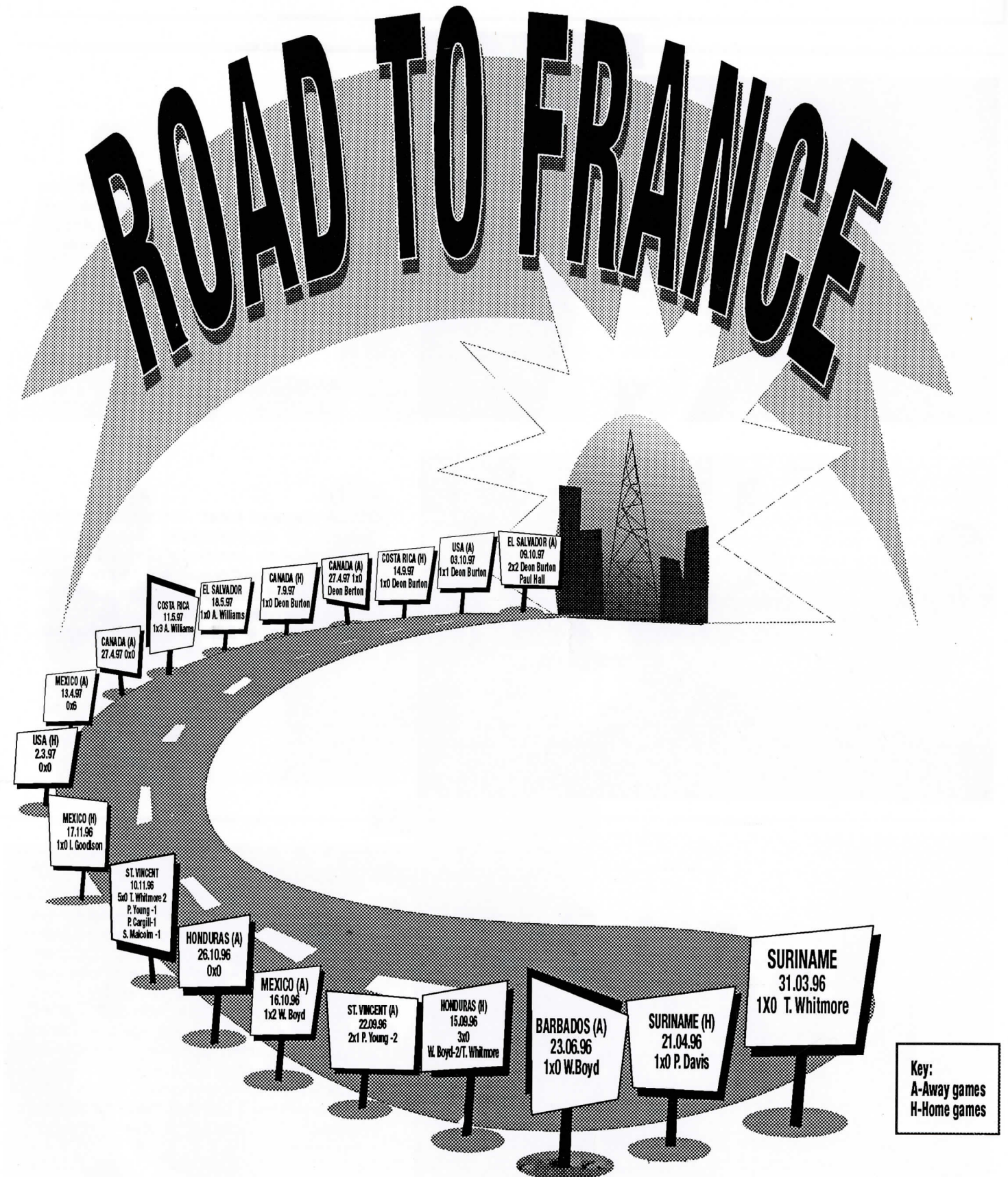
Front row: Peter Cargill, Stephen Malcolm, Ricardo Gardner, Durrant Brown, Deon Burton, Paul Hall.

Prime Minister P. J. Patterson recently announced an incentive programme under which the Government will be granting housing lots and special mortgage loans to each member of the national football team and the coaching staff.

The Prime Minister made the announcement at Jamaica House during a press conference which was attended by Government officials, executive members of the Jamaica Football Federation and representatives of the Sports Development Foundation.

Under the programme, lots from existing PRIDE sites or other public housing developments are to be made available to each member of the team and to every full-time member of the coaching staff. The Prime Minister pointed out that the team members and coaches will select their lots from any available location across the country.

He noted that the initiative came about as a result of the gratitude of the people and Government of the country, for the valiant efforts of the national football team in their aim to reach the World Cup finals for the first time.



HERE AND THERE

MIAMI



Jamaica Jamboree: Consul-General, Mr John Atkins is all smiles as he welcomes Michelle Moodie, Miss Jamaica, to the 3rd Annual Jamaica Jamboree held at Cocowalk in Coconut Grove recently.



Consuls-General Meet: Trinidadian Consul-General, Mr Chanderdath Singh paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul General, John Atkins at the Consulate in Miami, where they discussed among other things, matters relating to immigration. Also taking part in the discussion is Deputy Consul General, (Jamaica) Miss Gloria O'Connor.



ICWI/Star Scholar visits Consulate: The 1997-98 Star Scholar Trevor McKenzie paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul General, John Atkins. Mr. McKenzie was accompanied by Catherine Raymond, Deputy Director of Education at the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planstarium (third from left). The Consul General reflected on the relationships in Science with the United States and expressed the hope that these exchanges between Jamaica and the U.S. would continue.

HERE AND THERE

NEW YORK



Displaying his Award: Jamaican comedian, Oliver Samuels, O.D. (c) displaying the Front Page Award given to him by the publishers of the Carib News. Occasion was a reception hosted by Jamaica's Consul General to New York, Mrs. Kay Baxter-Collins, in Mr. Samuels' honour, which was held at the Jamaican Consulate's Manhattan offices. Others in picture from left are Mayor Allan Thompson of Spring Valley; Consul General Mrs Kay Baxter-Collins; Mrs. Faye Rodney and Mr. Karl Rodney, publishers of the Carib News.



"We are happy to have this exhibition here" is what Jamaica's Consul General to New York, Mrs. Kay Baxter-Collins, (l) told guests who attended the opening reception for an exhibition of Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's (JCDC) winning 1997 Festival Photographs. The exhibition held at the Consulate's Manhattan offices marked the first time that JCDC's winning photos were displayed overseas. Others in picture are Mrs. Hedi Leith of the JCDC and Mr. Ken Morgan, Director of the JCDC's photo competition.

TORONTO



Community welcome for new Consul General: Mr. Hermon LaMont, (c) Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto since August 1, was recently welcomed to the city by a group of Jamaican organisations. Shown are (l-r) High Commissioner, Her Excellency Maxine Roberts and Ontario's newly-appointed Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, Ms. Isabel Bassett.



HERE AND THERE

TORONTO



Scholarship Awarded: Phillip Burgess, a second-year medical student at the University of the West Indies (Mona) was this year's recipient of the Canadian-based Hargell Scholarship, presented to a UWI medical student each year. (left to right) are Mr Herman LaMont, Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto; Phillip Burgess; Professor William Gibbs Dean of Medical Sciences at UWI (Mona); Mr. Lorrie Goldstein, Editor of the Toronto Sun newspaper and Master of Ceremonies; and Jamaican-born Lloyd Selwright, President of the Pride of Toronto Chapter No.12.



Heritage Singers: The Heritage Singers, a folk group comprised of mostly Jamaicans, celebrated their 20th anniversary recently with a brunch and performance at the Ramada Hotel in Toronto. Special awards were handed out to community members who have assisted them in the past, including the Hon. Louise Bennett-Coverley (Ms Lou).

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Canadian Importers Party: Jamaica's Consul General Mr Herman LaMont (l) and Trade Commissioner Mrs. Cherita Girvan-Campbell at the Convention of the Canadian Importers' Association.



Heroes Tribute: "Caribbean Voices" entertained the audience with their repertoire of Jamaican folk songs at the recently held Heroes Banquet, organised by the Jamaica Ottawa Community Association to pay tribute to Jamaica's national heroes.

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2,300 BENEFIT FROM LAND/ HOUSES IN MOBAY

2,300 persons recently received land and housing benefits from the Government through developments by the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and the National Housing Trust (NHT) at Lilliput and Green Ponds, both on the outskirts on Montego Bay in St James.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson was on hand to present land titles to some of the 250 residents of Lilliput who have received legal ownership documents for land under phase one of the programme.

Ground will be broken early next year for the construction of a Ritz Carlton Hotel on the RoseHall property nearby. The hotel development will provide an additional 250 rooms for the tourist industry, while creating employment for many persons from the area.

UDC Chairman Dr Vin Lawrence said the Corporation had made the lots available to the people at less than market value, in recognition of their lower-income status.

The Cornwall Court Housing Development project was started last year and at Green Pond will see the delivery of 3,000 housing solutions and the installation of infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electricity and a sewerage system.

Prime Minister Patterson has advised that the NHT was currently

engaged in providing 5,000 housing solutions in St James, Hanover, Westmoreland and St Ann. This was part of the Government's programme to develop housing infrastructure in western Jamaica, to support the growth of the tourism sector and to facilitate the orderly development of the region.

The government has provided

He also pointed to the provision of mortgages at 2 per cent for contributors earning less than \$1,000 per week, as an example of the Government's creativity and concern for the poor. Prime Minister Patterson said the Government's commitment to the provision of land and shelter was a demonstration of its aim to create a quality Jamaican society.



The Government has provided more than 64,000 housing solutions since 1989, with more to come before the end of the year.

more than 64,000 housing solutions since 1989, with more to come before the end of the year. Mortgages by the NHT, the Prime Minister pointed out, totalled 29,000 for the past eight years, with 6,000 having been granted this year alone.

This squatter upgrading and regularisation project, undertaken by the UDC will see the delivery of titles to 725 more people in phase two and the development has been complemented by the installation of necessary infrastructure such as water, electricity supply and roads.

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OLE TIME CHRISTMAS RECIPES

TIE-A-LEAF

(Duckoono, Boyo, or Blue Drawers)

Many people think they will not be able to make this dish because they have no leaf to tie it in, nor any banana bark to tie it with. Please know that the taste is just as good tied in foil with a string. Call it Duckoono, Boyo or Blue Drawers, this West African dish is always popular. Tie-a-leaf is like a boiled pudding and can be made with cornmeal, green bananas and sweet potatoes or a mixture of your choice. Grated coconut is always included to give a 'bite' that is appreciated.

Ingredients

3 cups	grated green bananas
2 cups	grated sweet potatoes
1 cup	flour
1 tsp.	baking powder
1 tsp.	salt
2 cups	coconut milk
1 1/2 cups	brown sugar
1 tsp.	vanilla
1 tsp.	mixed spice
2 tbsp.	melted margarine
1 cup	grated coconut
1/4 cups	raisins



Combine grated bananas, sweet potatoes, flour, baking powder, salt, mixed spice, margarine, grated coconut and raisins. Sweeten coconut mixture with sugar and add vanilla. Pour milk mixture in banana mixture and blend well. Prepare banana leaf by cutting off entire vein and holding leaf over boiling water or before an open flame to make it pliable.

Put 1/2 cup mixture in banana leaves or in foil and fold up sides to make parcel. Tie with banana bark or twine. Place parcels in enough boiling water to cover and boil for 30 minutes. Remove leaf covering to serve or place on a small piece of prepared banana leaf and garnish with nuts and chilled banana cream. Serves 8.

HOT EGG PUNCH

Many churches have Midnight Mass or an early morning service at 5 a.m. on Christmas morning. Egg nog is the traditional drink on Christmas morning and is usually made in large quantities. Although there is no snow on the ground in Jamaica at Christmas, the mornings can be nippy so it is usually served hot.

Ingredients

6	eggs
	pinch of salt
5 tbsp.	granulated sugar
4 cups	milk
1 cup	Jamaica rum or 1 cup brandy
	grated nutmeg



Beat egg yolks with mixer until thick and lemon coloured. Add salt and sugar.

Gradually pour a small amount of heated milk into egg mixture, so it will not cook the eggs. Continue to add milk until the eggs are almost the same temperature as the milk, then pour in all at once.

Add rum and brandy as required. Sprinkle with grated nutmeg and serve.

Serves 6

TIT BITS

J\$26M BY-PASS ROAD

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson recently opened a J\$26 million by-pass Road in East Westmoreland.

The 1.3 kilometre roadway, constructed by local contractor Dr. Foote and Company, was the second phase development of a plan to rationalise the Bluefields Beach into an enclosed recreational area. The development is being handled by Urban Development Corporation and is fully financed by the Government of Jamaica.

The first phase of the Bluefields Development involved construction of the J\$12 million Bluefields Beach Park which opened in March. Another phase is to come on stream to include development of a play-field and further work at the beach area.

**Jamaica is up
against
Croatia on
Sunday June
14 after
being drawn
in group H.**

MORE MONEY FOR PENSIONERS

Retired Public Servants should soon be receiving better pensions as a result of amendments to the laws.

Pensions will now be calculated at a rate of 1/540th of pensionable emoluments, instead of 1/600th with effect from June 10, 1996. This means that a pensioner with 25 years service, or 300 months, who retires with a monthly salary of J\$20,000 will receive a monthly pension of 300 times J\$20,000 divided by 540 or J\$11,111.11. Previously his pension would be 300 times J\$20,000 divided

by 600, or J\$10,000. The requirement that pensions should not exceed two-thirds of the highest pensionable emoluments, or the amount that would accumulate over 33 1/3 years, has been abolished. This means that a person who worked for more than 33 1/3 years can receive pension for the entire period worked.

Persons who retired from the Public Service between 1986 and 1989 will also get the increased pensions.

MANLEY MEADOWS NEARS COMPLETION

Some home owners in Government's Manley Meadows housing development on Bellevue lands in Kingston, could move into their new dwellings by Christmas.

This is the word from Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, who toured the 1,156-unit development recently.

Mr. Patterson said he was pleased with the progress of work on the project being undertaken as a joint venture between the National Housing Trust and the Urban Development Corporation, two agencies for which he has direct portfolio

responsibility.

Work on the new housing scheme named after former Prime Minister, Michael Manley in the East Kingston and Port Royal constituency, which he once represented, is scheduled to be completed by May 1998.

The project is being developed at a cost of One billion dollars and involves the construction of 1,068 studio units and 88 two bedroom units.



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If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in receiving copies, do ask them to write/telephone/e-mail or fax us at:

- **Toronto**

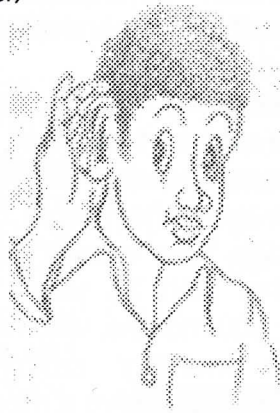
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